

## 5 WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for mitigating toe strike in a cockpit of an aircraft, comprising:  
providing an airbag module attached to an instrument console located in the cockpit  
of the aircraft;

releasing an airbag from the airbag module after an ejection sequence begins;  
10 using the airbag to protect a pilot's lower limbs from striking the instrument console  
as the pilot begins ejecting.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the airbag module is flush mounted on a bottom  
surface of the instrument console.

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3. The method of claim 2 wherein the airbag is a balloon type airbag.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of releasing an airbag includes releasing a  
balloon type airbag and at least one side curtain type airbag.

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5. The method of claim 1 wherein the airbag module is surface mounted on a bottom  
surface of the instrument console.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein the airbag is a balloon type airbag.

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7. The method of claim 1 wherein the airbag module is mounted on a rear surface of  
the instrument console and flush with a bottom surface of the instrument console.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the step of releasing an airbag includes releasing a  
30 balloon type airbag and at least one side curtain type airbag.

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